

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7471

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA KN KS PFOR

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VISITORS TO JAPAN

1. FONOFF NE ASIA DEPDIR KAWASHIMA CONFIMED TO EMBOFF
PRESS REPORTS THAT GOJ HAD DECIDED TO ALLOW SEVEN-MEMBER NORTH
KOREAN DELEGATION TO VISIT JAPAN IN MID-MAY. NORTH KOREAN GROUP
WAS COMING IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION EXTENDED LAST JANUARY
IN PYONGYANG BY LDP DIET MEMBER CHUJI KUNO, HEAD OF JAPAN-KOREA
PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION. NORTH KOREANS WERE
EXPECTED TO DISCUSS RE-NEGOTIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL TRADE AGREE-
MENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES (PREVIOUS PRIVATE TRADE ACCORD,
SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF KUNO'S GROUP IN PYONGYANG IN 1972,
EXPIRED LAST DECEMBER). KAWASHIMA BELIEVED THAT NORTH KOREANS
WOULD ALSO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF PRIVATE FISHING AGREEMENT.

2. KAWASHIMA NOTED THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF GROUP'S LEADER,
FORMER DPRK AMBASSADOR TO PRC HYON CHON-KUK, DELEGATION
CONSISTED OF LOW-LEVEL INDIVIDUALS. HE EMPHASIZED
THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS SOLELY ECONOMIC IN NATURE AND AS SUCH,
IN LINE WIT PREVIOUSLY STATED GOJ POLICY ENCOURAGING GREATER
ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN DPRK AND JAPAN. KAWASHIMA
STATED FLATLY THAT GOJ OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH
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GROUP.

3. DESPITE GOJ EFFORTS TO DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT,
JAPANESE PRESS HAS CHOSEN TO PICK UP ON THEME THAT DELEGATION
WOULD BE FIRST NORTH KOREAN "POLITICAL MISSION" ALLOWED TO ENTER
JAPAN. LOCAL ROK POLCOUNS TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD
ALREADY PROTECTED "THIS UNFRIENDLY ACT BY JAPAN" BUT HAD BEEN

INFORMED THAT GOJ DECISION WOULD STAND.

3. COMMENT: FONOFF OFFICIALS READILY ADMIT THAT COMING ON HEELS OF DIET PROBLEMS WITH CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, TIMING OF NORTH KOREAN VISIT IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE. THEY HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED THAT DIET RATIFICATION OF SHELF AGREEMENT IN LATE APRIL AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED WOULD HAVE BLANCED EFFECT OF NORTH KOREAN VISIT. THEY POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT TO HAVE REFUSED PERMISSION FOR NORTH KOREANS' ENTRY ON INVITATION FROM DIET MEMBERS WOULD ONLY CAUSE EVEN GREATER PROBLEMS FOR PRO-ROK LEGISLATION. END COMMENT

SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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